

June 11th, 2009

C.A.T. Distribution #24

As expected, we received a final offer from the company today and, as expected, it has the full blown flexibility language in it as well as Christmas, with nothing offered for either one. It also contains the dreaded job cuts that we all feel won't work with minimal wage adjustments attached. As much as we beat this up, we were not able to get the company to understand how passionate our members are pertaining to these issues. Hopefully they got an idea when they saw the show of support by the many members (hundreds throughout the day) that showed up for an informational picket to publically display their support to the bargaining committee as well as their displeasure to the information they received at the union meeting last night pertaining to the lack of progress in negotiations.

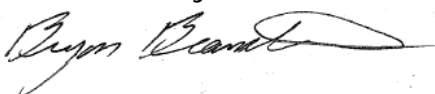
The way negotiations work, we now have one attempt to counter on their **final offer** which is on the back of this sheet. The company will take that into consideration and give us something to bring back to all of you. **I want to be very clear about the last 2 sentences: the proposal you see on the back of this sheet is not necessarily the proposal you will be voting on. The company will have one more chance to modify it.** I don't expect any big movement on their part but I am trying to stay optimistic at this time.

More information will be coming your way as the C-5 group is compiling a leaflet that will be very informative in explaining the effects of the proposed flexibility as well as some facts surrounding the financial issues we have all faced since the 2002 contract. This newly formed group of people is already showing their dedication to helping us achieve a contract we can all live with, which is greatly appreciated. We are very fortunate to have so many engaged members that we can fully staff and support the C-5 team and the CAT members. Thank you very much to both of these groups.

In the near future (within 2 weeks) there will be informational meetings held at the Escanaba Junior High Auditorium. This facility will handle a little over 800 people and with spouses invited to these meetings, we will need this kind of capacity. The meeting times will be 7:00am and 11:00am (at the union hall) with an evening meeting at 7:30pm for everyone else. The 7:30pm meeting will be held at the EJH auditorium. It's just a guess but I would predict these meetings to last about 2 hours.

There will be another CAT report sent out on Monday to wrap this all up and to let you know exactly where we ended up. Again I want to thank everyone that came out to support us today. Your presence and participation was a great surprise and very much appreciated.

In Solidarity,



Bryon Branstrom